

National Records of Scotland (NRS) Postcode Based Geography Extract 2014/1 Release: Important information

February 2014

Dear Customer

Please find enclosed the latest version of our Postcode Index and digital postcode boundary dataset. The data is based on a January 2014 release of Royal Mail's Postal Address File (PAF).

The Postcode Index links live and deleted postcodes to administrative, health, statistical and other areas. It also contains the Gridlink®/NRS one metre grid reference as well as NRS assigned grid references.

This version contains:

- 184,560 live and deleted small user records;
- 48,725 live and deleted large user records of which 28,079 are PO Boxes and 1,457 unmapped postcodes.

The number of outstanding postcodes without a digital boundary is 98.

What's new in 2014/1

1. New geographies – 2011 census output areas

- 1.1 We have now populated the Index with the 2011 Census output areas, population and household counts.

2. Improvements

- 2.1 Unfortunately we have not had time to complete our planned 'How to' guide to help users extract specific data due to other priorities but our Geography Customer Services team will be on hand to provide help and advice. Please contact us if you require assistance. We will publish the guide on our website as soon as we can.

3. Supply arrangements

- 3.1 Customers are reminded that they can download postcode data directly from the NRS website, both postcode boundaries and PC Index. This extract data will be available via the [NRS Postcode Extract](#) section of the NRS website. Customers wishing to continue receiving data on CD can do so if they prefer.

4. Application to Ordnance Survey(OS) for Derived Data Exemption (DDE) for NRS postcode boundaries

- 4.1 OS have rejected our DDE application for NRS postcode boundaries. We are considering appealing that decision. The dataset can continue to be used freely by all members of the One Scotland Mapping Agreement but non members should contact our customer services team for advice.

5. Planned changes to the Postcode Index

- 5.1 From **2014_1** we are planning a number of changes to the Postcode Index. More details will be available on our website over the next few months but briefly we plan to:

- Include the current version of a Geography only e.g. CHP and CHP2011 will be dropped, only CHP2012 will be retained.
- Remove old geographies e.g. fieldnames: 1991 LGD, 1991 LGR etc but a postcode assignment to any geography removed will be available on request.
- Rename field names e.g. 'Council Area' becomes 'CouncilArea2011'. A file converting old label to new label will be available for download.
- Lookup files will limit information to name and code (a few exceptions apply) and the nine character code applied in all cases where a nine character code exists. A master set of lookups will be available to download containing old and new nine character codes.
- Provide additional supporting information to help users understand postcodes and how to use the data.

- 5.2 Delivery of the planned changes is dependent on delivery of a new postcode management system, and it is possible that changes and improvements will slip into 2014_2 or 2015_1 Extract.

6. Copyright and reproduction

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Postcode Boundaries and Index – Cut Version

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- 6.3 Further information of licensing can be found in the geography [licensing](#) section of the NRS website.

7. Enquiries

- 7.1 Please contact our Geography Customer Services team if you need any further information or queries.

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